

flawed they believe the Senate plan to be, they didn't allow a vote on the Senate plan because they would have lost their position. That bill would have passed. We would be done with it today.

So when you hear Members of the majority talking about how flawed the Senate bill is and how the American people don't support it, their own Members would have voted for it, and we would have passed the bill if they would have allowed it.

STOP TRADING ON CONGRESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE

(Mr. WALZ of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALZ OF MINNESOTA. Mr. Speaker, again, this august body displayed the worst of what we can do. The opportunity to try and compromise was there. I have to say, last week I supported a bill put forward by my Republican friends, sent it to the Senate. It came back. And as the previous speaker said, I didn't even get a chance to vote on it. The real tragedy here is that there is another piece of legislation that is being held up that the American public knows needs to happen.

We can have a difference of political opinions across the aisle. The one that needs to get done is to believe people here are playing by the rules. The Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge, the insider-trading bill that's 18 pages long, it's been sitting around for 6 years. It now has 240 bipartisan cosponsors. It is now suddenly buried and gone. The American people demand us to do one thing: be honest and work for them. That bill can ensure that happens.

MIDDLE CLASS AMERICA, TAKE NOTICE

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, at the expense of the taxpayer, Members of the House of Representatives were called back to Washington to conclude business on a payroll tax extension. The truth of the matter is we never even voted on the bill. Why, perish the thought! The bill would have probably passed. Who loses? 160 million Americans who won't realize a payroll tax extension; 48 million Americans, seniors who won't have access to their Medicare health provider; 2.2 million unemployed Americans who through no fault of their own lost a job, won't have their unemployment insurance extended.

You know, when it came to providing tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires, there were no bells and whistles. There were no pipelines attached to the legislation. There were no pay-fors.

But when it comes to a tax cut for middle class Americans, all kinds of bells and whistles are attached, all kinds of demands. This is a facade that is seen through clearly. When they had a chance to address this issue, they called it "a gimmick"; it wasn't worth their attention. So don't let them fool you. This is just a way to keep moving the goal post and not do the right thing. Middle class America, take notice. We regret not taking a vote in this House.

ANOTHER DAY IN CONGRESS

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, there are some funny things that go on here. We watched the supercommittee operate for about 10 weeks and produce absolutely nothing. So today the Speaker comes out here and says, we want a conference committee. Now, the supercommittee was 12 members, three from each caucus; a conference committee, three members from each caucus. We're going to create another one, and we think that somehow it will solve this problem.

The definition of insanity is doing the same thing again and again and expecting a different result, and clearly we're not going to get a different result. The Senate sent us a compromise between two people that can't agree on the time of day, HARRY REID and MITCH MCCONNELL, and they got 90 votes for it. That is America. Ninety percent of America agreed on that; and the Speaker wouldn't even allow it to come to a vote. He said, Let's create a committee.

Don't forget it in 2012.

GED FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

(Mr. CLYBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, we often talk about poison pills, and I don't know that all of the American people really understand what we're talking about. I want the American people to know that this 1-year bill that the House Republicans seemed to be in love with had some poison pills in it. One of them cut 40 weeks off of unemployment insurance. That's what they want us to agree to.

But another one, and the one I think is most egregious, said to those people applying for unemployment insurance that you must pass the GED in order to get unemployment insurance. We would say to a Vietnam veteran who is a master electrician, who went off to fight a war, never finished high school, but now that you are unemployed with all your skills, because you don't have a high school diploma or a GED, you must take a GED in order to get your

unemployment insurance. That is not only a poison pill; that is insulting and egregious.

ONE OF THESE THINGS IS NOT LIKE THE OTHER

(Mr. RICHMOND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, the unfortunate incidents of today remind me of that song I learned from Sesame Street which is, One of these kids is doing his own thing. The truth of the matter is we need adults today. If you look at the Republican Senators, they stood up and reached a compromise with the Democrats in the Senate. The House Democrats came along. The President came along. There was only one outlier, and that was our House Republicans.

Over the holidays, Mr. Speaker, I would ask that you remind and encourage my House Republican colleagues to go see the wizard, go get a brain so we can talk about the intelligence needed to spur this economy. Go get the courage to stand up to the private interests, the Koch brothers, and the lobbyists so that you can do the right thing for the country. And after all, go get a heart so you can help the 2.2 million people that are unemployed have a merry Christmas, so that you can help the 160 million people who will face a tax hike on January 1 and, more than anything, the 48 million seniors who will have less access to health care.

Mr. Speaker, I will close with one thing, and it's just a bit of advice: be careful because the unemployment benefits you save may be your own.

WARREN HELLMAN

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to pay tribute to the passing of a man whose legacy to San Francisco is a great one. I rise to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Warren Hellman, a community leader, a San Francisco legend, and an American success story. Sadly, Warren passed away on December 18, surrounded by his loving family. That was the way he lived, surrounded by his loving family.

Warren was a tremendously successful businessman. And it was his business acumen that allowed him to pursue his true fashion, philanthropy. He was a Renaissance man. That's how his daughter described him, and that's how we all saw him. With his deep generosity, intellectual curiosity, and his visionary dynamism, he changed the face of San Francisco. His legacy will live on through his contributions to education, to music, to civic life, and to the memory we all happily have of him being such a modest athlete, something he took great pride in.